

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

MBFR-04 SAJ-01 MC-02 SS-15 ACDA-19 NSC-10 DRC-01

OMB-01 /132 W
----- 096890

R 281800Z SEP 73
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1828
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT

S E C R E T USNATO 4597

E.O. 11652: 12-31-81
TAGS: MCAP, NATO
SUBJECT: EWG MEETING, SEPTEMBER 27, BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE
PLANNING

REF: USNATO 4505; USNATO 4330

SUMMARY: EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP MET SEPTEMBER 27 FOR A
DISCUSSION ON WAR RESERVE STOCKS (AC/281-REPORT(73)15) AND
AIRCRAFT SHELTERS (AC/281-REPORT(73)16) DURING WHICH SHAPE
REPRESENTATIVE MADE A REPORT ON U.S. QUESTIONS (USNATO 4330)
SUBMITTED DURING EWG MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13. SHAPE WAS
ASKED TO PROVIDE VIEWS ON MOST CRITICAL WAR RESERVE STOCKS
AND TO PRESENT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE VALUE OF SHELTERS.
WASHINGTON GUIDANCE REQUIRED. END SUMMARY.

1. CHAIRMAN (PANSA) BEGAN BY REVIEWING THE GOAL OF THE BASIC
ISSUES STUDY : TO ESTABLISH WHETHER CRITERIA FOR PROGRAMS
ARE AGREED AND ACCEPTED; TO RECOMMEND REVISED CRITERIA WHEN
NECESSARY; AND TO PROVIDE A TIMETABLE FOR EFFORTS NEEDED TO
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MEET ALL AGREED CRITERIA. HE THEN SUGGESTED THAT MEETING BEGIN
BY ADDRESSING THE QUESTIONS THAT WERE ASKED BY THE US AT THE
MEETING OF 13 SEPTEMBER.

2. IN RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION OF THE CHAIRMAN, THE US REP (GEN BOWMAN) EXPLAINED THAT THE QUESTIONS WERE MEANT TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION AND TO RAISE FURTHER QUESTIONS WHICH COULD LEAD THE EWG TOWARD ITS OBJECTIVE OF STANDARDS WHICH ARE AGREED BY ALL. THE POINT WAS MADE THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT NOT ONLY TO ARRIVE AT IMPROVED OBJECTIVES AND THE TIMETABLE FOR ACHIEVING THEM BUT ALSO TO ENSURE THAT THOSE OBJECTIVES ARE WELL UNDERSTOOD AND UNIFORMLY SUPPORTED THROUGHOUT THE ALLIANCE.

3. WAR RESERVE STOCKS. THE CHAIRMAN STATED THAT THE WORK SO FAR RECONFIRMED THE INITIAL STANDARD OF A 30ADAY LEVEL AND THE NEED FOR A PROGRAM TO REACH THAT LEVEL. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE WORK OF THE EWG SHOULD PRODUCE A LIST OF CRITICAL ITEMS FOR EARLY IMPROVEMENT. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE DRC SUB-GROUP REPORT ON WAR RESERVE STOCKS WOULD BE IMPROVED THROUGH USE OF THE DPQ RESPONSES AND THAT ITEMS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING PHASED OUT WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORT.

4. ON THE QUESTION OF AIRCRAFT ATTRITION AND ITS EFFECT ON STOCK LEVELS, SHAPE REP (GEN MILLER) INDICATED THAT THE ATTRITION RATE OF 60 PERCENT DURING THE FIRST 7 DAYS OF CONFLICT WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED IN SPITE OF THE AIRCRAFT SHELTER PROGRAM. 45 PERCENT OF THE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE LOST ON THE GROUND, ASSUMING 70 PERCENT SHELTERS, AND 15 PERCENT WOULD BE LOST IN THE AIR. HOWEVER, HE STATED THAT THESE WERE OVER-SIMPLIFIED CALCULATIONS THAT DID NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT LOSSES. FRG REP SUGGESTED THAT AIRCRAFT SHELTERS MIGHT HAVE THE EFFECT OF MAKING ENEMY ATTACK ON AIRCRAFT ON THE GROUND AN IMPRACTICAL TACTIC DUE TO HIGH LOSS RATE OF ATTACKING AIRCRAFT.

5. WITH RESPECT TO NATO'S MUNITION CONSUMPTION RATES, THE SHAPE REP INDICATED THAT THE TABLES IN "SHAPE GUIDANCE FOR STOCKPILE PLANNING IN ACE" ARE OUTDATED AND NEW TABLES WOULD BE READY EARLY IN 1974. HOWEVER, FOR NEW WEAPONS SUCH AS CLUSTER-BOMB UNITS, SOME SURFACE-TO-SURFACE AND SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES, AND PRECISION-GUIDED MUNITIONS, NATO STANDARDS
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WOULD NOT BE ESTABLISHED UNTIL MORE COUNTRIES WERE INVOLVED AND NATIONAL STANDARDS WERE DEVELOPED. SHAPE ASSIGNMENT OF PRIORITIES II AND III FOR IMPROVEMENT OF STOCK LEVELS IN THE CENTRAL REGION AND PRIORITY I IN THE SOUTHERN REGION WAS AN INDICATION OF THE IMBALANCES BETWEEN THE AREAS SINCE THE SOUTHERN REGION SUFFERED FROM DRASTIC SHORTAGES. THE ASSIGNMENT OF PRIORITIES II AND III WAS NOT MEANT TO INDICATE THAT IMPROVEMENTS WERE NOT IMPORTANT.

6. AIRCRAFT SHELTERS. THE NORWEGIAN REP STATED THAT THE SHAPE REPORT ON AIRCRAFT ATTRITION SEEMED TO SHOW THAT THE SHELTERS PROGRAM WAS NOT WORTH THE MONEY SINCE AIRCRAFT ATTRITION RATES REMAINED THE SAME. THE SHAPE REP REPLIED THAT ATTRITION

RATES WOULD BE EVEN HIGHER IF WE DID NOT HAVE THE SHELTERS. FRG REP POINTED OUT THAT FRG AUTHORITIES HAD REACHED THE OPPOSITE CONCLUSION. THE US REP ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SHAPE STUDY WHICH REVEALED THAT IN A POSTULATED ATTACK AGAINST 20 AIRCRAFT OF WHICH 70 PERCENT WERE IN SHELTERS, 2 UNSHELTERED AIRCRAFT WERE DESTROYED BUT ONLY 1 SHELTERED AIRCRAFT. FOLLOWING THIS DISCUSSION, SHAPE WAS ASKED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL STUDY DATA ON THE ATTRITION RATES THAT COULD BE EXPECTED WITH 80 PERCENT, 90 PERCENT, AND 100 PERCENT SHELTERS, AND TO COMMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE FOR AN ENEMY TO ATTACK SHELTERED AIRCRAFT IN VIEW OF HIS OWN HEAVY LOSSES TO AIRFIELD DEFENSES.

7. NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 16 OCTOBER AND WILL INCLUDE A REPORT ON THE DRG ANTI-TANK STUDY (AC/243-D/291).

8. WASHINGTON GUIDANCE REQUESTED: (A) US POSITION ON AIRCRAFT ATTRITION RATES, (B) US VIEWS ON CRITICAL WAR RESERVE ITEMS TO BE LISTED IN THE EWG REPORT FOR EARLY INCREASE, (C) US VIEWS ON STOCK LEVELS FOR CRICCA NEA MUNITIONS NO CARRIED IN SHAPE TABLES (D) US DATA ON VALUE OF 80 PERCENT 90 PERCENT, AND 100 PERCENT SHELTERS FOR AIRCRAFT, (E) US VIEWS ON WHAT EWG SHOULD SEEK IN STANDARDS FOR ANTI-TANK CAPABILITY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO04597
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 12-31-81
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730962/abqcechn.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USNATO 4505; USNATO 4330
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EWG MEETING, SEPTEMBER 27, BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE PLANNING
TAGS: MCAF, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005